



Centro Superior de Idiomas at Universidad Centroamericana Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Nicaragua

fall / spring / academic year / calendar year



anthropology / communications / development studies / economics / education / environmental science / geography / history / legal studies / nicaraguan studies
philosophy / political science / psychology / social justice / social science / sociology / spanish language / tourism



program snapshot

- Jump start your Spanish study with an intensive, two-week Spanish language course prior to the semester
- Take a CIEE course focusing on the political history of Nicaragua and join CIEE-facilitated visits to community and sustainable development organizations
- Enroll in classes at the premier public Nicaraguan university
- Explore the city and country through cultural activities and educational excursions to parks and nature preserves

what you'll learn

While broad in its academic scope, the Social Justice and Development program is particularly appropriate for students with an interest in the social sciences, social justice, and development studies. The program enables participants to refine their Spanish language skills through an intensive Spanish language; to enhance their understanding of contemporary Nicaraguan society through the core course; and to take courses in a variety of academic disciplines through direct enrollment at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Nicaragua.

thoughts from abroad

There are many programs in Latin America that introduce students to the developing world. The CIEE Social Justice and Development program in Managua at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Nicaragua is unique in that it is designed for students who do not want to watch underdevelopment from a distance, but instead want to have close contact with the reality of the poor in this part of the world. It is for those who are not afraid of an academic challenge and of “roughing it” in one of the hemisphere’s most culturally rich and historically compelling countries. Living in Nicaragua provides you with the opportunity to experience a beautiful country that lived through a revolutionary process in the 1980s, which fostered a strong culture of solidarity that continues to manifest itself in the work of cooperatives, non-governmental organizations, and social movements striving to achieve social justice in today’s society. If you have a strong sense of adventure, are looking for a challenge, and yearn to make a change in the world, this is likely to be an ideal study abroad program for you.

— Hector Cruz-Feliciano, Resident Director

About the Resident Director

Dr. Hector Cruz-Feliciano has a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and an M.A. from Illinois State University. In Guatemala, he served as a Peace Corps volunteer working with indigenous communities. He previously taught at the University of Puerto Rico, Thomas More University in Nicaragua, and the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. Much of his research focuses on issues related to poverty, indebtedness, and neo-liberalism in developing countries. Dr. Cruz-Feliciano was previously the CIEE Resident Director in Santiago, Chile.

About the Program Assistant

Gabriela Reyes is a native Nicaraguan and received her undergraduate degree in International Relations and Diplomacy from Universidad Americana (UAM) in Managua. Gabriela is in charge of working with host families, coordinating extracurricular activities, and office administration.

academics

Academic Program

The Social Justice and Development program provides a supportive environment for students who have at least five semesters of college-level Spanish, and wish to continue language study while enrolling directly in a Nicaraguan university. The program allows students to pursue a wide range of academic interests, through a diversity of academic disciplines in the social science and humanities fields.

Academic Culture

At Nicaraguan universities, students take courses related to their major from the very beginning of their academic studies. They continue to enroll in more focused concentration courses as they progress through their academic career. Courses outside of the general education requirements are equivalent to upper-level courses in the United States.

CIEE students should be prepared for a style of teaching that relies primarily on lectures and student presentations, which often encourage academic debate among students. Class size ranges from 20 to 55 students, with most classes averaging 20 to 30 students.

The first semester of the academic year in Managua begins in early February and ends in mid-July, and the second semester begins in mid-July and ends in early December. An academic year program of study in Managua can begin either during the North American fall or spring semester. Academic year students who begin their study during the North American fall semester have a two-month break between semesters. There is a break of about two weeks between the spring and fall semesters.

Nature of Classes

Participants enroll directly in host University courses and take classes with Nicaraguan students. The intensive Spanish language courses and the CIEE required core course are with CIEE students only.

CIEE Community Language Commitment

Students take part in the CIEE Community Language Commitment by agreeing to speak Spanish at all times (except in emergencies). This fosters a learning community that contributes to both Spanish language proficiency and a better understanding of Nicaraguan society and culture.

Grading System

Assessment for Spanish language and CIEE courses is based on class participation, homework assignments, quizzes, mid-terms, final exams, and papers. Final grades are usually determined by a combination of mid-terms and a final paper or examination. The Nicaraguan grading scale is very similar to the U.S. system, ranging from 1 to 100. CIEE converts grades and credits to the U.S. system.

Grades for the North American spring semester should arrive on campus by late November, and grades for the North American fall semester should arrive on campus by late May. Graduating seniors or others concerned about the timing of receiving grades for other reasons need to take this into consideration when choosing this program.



about managua

Managua offers vivid testimonies of Nicaragua’s history, the character of its people, and culture around every corner. Within a few steps of the city’s Lake Xolotlan lie the ruins of the Old Cathedral, one of the few structures in the city that survived the 1972 earthquake. The 1,500,000 inhabitants of this capital city reside in its neighborhoods, which stand in the periphery of this old center and are home to working families, solidarity workers from abroad, and groups of students, who in the evenings organize cultural, political, and social gatherings.

where you’ll study

The Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Nicaragua (UNAN-Managua) opened its doors in 1956 as the metropolitan campus of UNAN-León, a university established in 1812. With the triumph of the Sandinista Revolution in 1979, the Managua campus came to concentrate most of the University’s intellectual activities and the majority of its students. In 1982, the campus became independent from UNAN-León, acquiring its present name and growing to be the most important public university in the capital of Nicaragua. Today UNAN-Managua has campuses throughout the country and has a student body of 24,000.

living

Housing and Meals

Housing and two meals per day are included in the program fee. Students live in modest Nicaraguan homes. Although all students on the program have a private room, they should be prepared for more sparse furnishings, tepid water in the showers, and smaller homes than they may be accustomed to in the U.S. Academic year students are responsible for housing and meals during the two-month break between fall and spring semesters.

The homestay is essential to the students' learning process and integration into life in Managua. The opportunity to live with a Nicaraguan family not only allows students to deconstruct stereotypes and to observe real life in action, but it also creates opportunities for students to talk about issues presented in their courses and to practice their Spanish language skills. Homestays also provide a unique source for learning about Nicaraguan culture and for personal growth.

Online Pre-Departure and On-Site Orientations

Students begin their study abroad experience in Managua before leaving home—by participating in a CIEE Online Pre-Departure Orientation. Meeting with students online, the Resident Director shares information about the program and site, highlighting issues that alumni have said are important, and giving students time to ask questions before leaving home. The online orientation allows students to connect with oth-

ers in the group, reflect on what they want to get out of the program, and learn what others in the group would like to accomplish. The CIEE goal for the pre-departure orientation is simple: to help students understand more about the program and site, as well as their goals for the program, so that they arrive to the program well-informed and return home having made significant progress toward their goals.

The mandatory three-day orientation session at the beginning of the program introduces students to the city, their host families, and the academic program, as well as provides practical information about living in Managua. Following orientation, all students enroll in a two-week intensive Spanish language course before the regular semester begins. A mid-semester workshop and the re-entry workshop held at the end of the semester are designed to assist students with cross-cultural adjustment and adaptation. Ongoing support is provided on an individual and group basis throughout the program

Internet

UNAN-Managua and UCA (where Spanish language classes are held) have wireless Internet access. In addition, there are many inexpensive Internet cafés in Managua. Students are encouraged to bring wireless-enabled laptops. It is not common to find Internet access provided in homestays, so while this may be offered in some homes where students are housed, it should not be expected.

culture

Cultural Activities and Field Trips

The program includes visits to sites of historic and cultural importance in Managua and its environs. These activities, which vary each semester to take advantage of seasonal and current attractions, may include visits to the Caribbean Coast (Pearl Lagoon and Little Corn Island), home of the African descent, Miskito, and English-speaking population of Nicaragua; as well as to farmers' cooperatives in the northern highlands of Las Segovias, famous for being the stage of *Sandinista's* struggle in the 1930s. Other destinations may include El Castillo on the Río San Juan, through which the trans-isthmian canal was originally intended, and La Bastilla Forest and Technical School in Jinotega, where students interact with local students learning agricultural and tourism-associated trades. There are also numerous day trips close to Managua, including visits to national parks, such as Volcán Masaya; to local artisans' homes and workshops in San Juan de Oriente; and to the colonial cities of Granada and León.

In addition, throughout the semester there are CIEE-organized cultural activities linked to learning about issues of social justice and development, including guest lectures and facilitated discussions with people involved in grassroots organizations, as well as visits to community centers and organizations in and around Managua.

language instruction

The CIEE Study Center in Managua offers Spanish instruction through the Centro Superior de Idiomas at Universidad Centroamericana (UCA). With more than 8,000 students, UCA is the oldest private institution of higher learning in Central America. UCA's Centro Superior de Idiomas is the first multilingual center in Nicaragua, with highly-qualified faculty and state-of-the-art language labs.

Following a language placement exam at the start of the semester, all students in the CIEE Managua program enjoy two weeks of intensive Spanish training (45 contact hours) in which they refine their language skills, learn about the particularities of Nicaraguan Spanish, and get an introduction to the culture of their new host country.

eligibility

- Overall GPA 2.75
- 5 semesters of college-level Spanish or equivalent

duration

Fall
21 weeks: early July—early December

Spring
21 weeks: early February—late June

Academic Year
52 weeks: early July—late June

Calendar Year
45 weeks: early February—early December

costs

CIEE Fees

Fall 2011: \$11,500
Spring 2011: available 8/15/11
Academic Year 2011–12: \$21,900
Calendar Year 2011: available 8/15/11

The CIEE program fees for 2011–12 include tuition, optional on-site airport meet and greet, full-time leadership and support, housing, two meals per day, orientation, cultural activities, local excursions, field trips, pre-departure advising, and a CIEE iNext travel card which provides insurance and other travel benefits.

Estimated Additional Costs (Fall 2011)

Transportation	\$ 900
(round-trip based on U.S. East Coast departure)	
Personal Expenses	\$ 900
Additional Meals	\$ 450
Books and Supplies	\$ 100
Local Transportation	\$ 400
Visa Fee	\$ 40
High School Diploma Legalization Fees	\$ 20
Total Estimated Additional Costs	\$2,770

Check our website for current fees.



coursework

Program Requirements

The required two-week intensive language course precedes the regular semester. During the regular semester, students must enroll in the CIEE core course and three or four direct enrollment courses. At least one direct enrollment course related to Nicaragua, social justice, and/or development studies is strongly recommended.

Credit

Total recommended credit for the semester is 15–18 semester/22.5–27 quarter hours and for the year is 30–36 semester/45–54 quarter hours.

Contact hours for CIEE courses are 45 contact hours with recommended credit of 3 semester/4.5 quarter hours, and contact hours for UNAN-Managua courses vary from 45–90 contact hours with recommended credits of 3–6 semester/4.5–9 quarter hours, unless otherwise indicated.

Language of Instruction

Spanish

Faculty

All courses are taught by CIEE and UNAN-Managua faculty. The Spanish language course is taught by professors at Universidad Centroamericana (UCA), a private Jesuit university founded in 1960.



courses

Required CIEE Intensive Language Courses

SPAN 2502 MSJD, Intensive Intermediate Spanish, II

SPAN 3501 MSJD, Intensive Advanced Spanish

Upon arrival, students are given a language placement exam to determine which language course they take during the two-week intensive language program. This course emphasizes grammar applied through oral production. Reading, writing, and listening comprehension activities are included to reinforce the oral exercises.

Required CIEE Core Course

LAST 3001 MSJD/POLI 3001 MSJD

Poverty, Revolution, and Neoliberalism in Nicaragua

This course analyzes the efforts to achieve revolutionary change and reform in Nicaragua placing special emphasis on the socio-economic and political circumstances that led to the Sandinista Revolution and its aftermath. While broad in scope, the course highlights the role of poverty and the unequal distribution of wealth as determinants of the events discussed in class. In addition, the course provides the opportunity to assess the impact of revolutionary and neoliberal policies in the advancement of human development goals in Nicaragua. *Instructor: Dr. Hector Cruz-Feliciano, CIEE Resident Director*

Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Nicaragua Courses

All course selections are made in consultation with the CIEE Resident Director. Not all courses are available every semester. The reality of the academic system in Nicaragua is such that course listings and course availability are not determined until immediately prior to the start of university classes in a given semester. The final list of courses is available in Managua during the first two weeks of the program.

The following list is a representative sampling of courses available at UNAN-Managua. Students may enroll in any course for which they meet the prerequisites. In addition to the courses listed here, the host institution offers a wide range of courses in disciplines such as economics, geography, and communications.

Students are strongly encouraged to enroll in at least one direct enrollment course related to Nicaragua, social justice, and/or development studies. The courses that serve to satisfy this program requirement are determined by the Resident Director at the beginning of each semester, and may include offerings such as the following:

19th Century Nicaraguan History
20th Century Nicaraguan History
Development Sociology
History of Nicaragua I and II
History of Political and Social Movements
Nicaraguan Political Thought
Nicaraguan Pre-Colonial History
Seminar on National Reality
Social and Economic Theory
Study of Ruben Darío

Agricultural Economics

Agronomy
Agricultural Economics I
Agricultural Economics II
Agro Industry
Economic Structure of Nicaragua
Environmental Economics
Farming Development Theory
Farming Markets
International Agricultural Markets
Rural Economy

Anthropology

American Neolithic Period
Archaeological Research I and II
Archaeology of Agricultural Societies
Archaeology of Complex Societies
Archaeology of Gatherers and Hunters
Development Anthropology
Gender Archaeology
Historical Archaeology
Introduction to Anthropology
Introduction to Archaeology

Origins of American Settlement
Social Anthropology Research Workshop

Communications and Journalism

Communication and Globalization
Communication Theory
Communications and Public Relations
Fundamentals of Literary Criticism
Introduction to Communication
Television Production

Diplomacy and Political Science

Diplomatic and Consular Law I and II
Etiquette and Protocol
History of Political and Social Movements in Latin America
History of Political Ideas I and II
International Arbitration and Procedural Problems
International Political Economy
International Relations
Introduction to Diplomacy and Political Science
Nicaraguan Political Thought
Seminar Workshop on Diplomatic Relations

Economics

Economic Development
Economic Geography
Economic Legislation
History of Economic Thought
International Economy
Macroeconomics I and II
Microeconomics I and II
Political Economy
Public Finance

Education

Comparative Pedagogy
Curricular Design
Curricular Theory
Educational Evaluation
General Pedagogy
Human Development
Musical Education
Organization and Administration
Seminar on Education

Environmental Science

Ecology
Environmental Problems in Nicaragua
Land Management
National Flora and Fauna
Natural Resources and the Environment
Nicaraguan Ecosystems
Sustainable Development and the Environment

History

American Pre-Colonial History
Analysis of Historical Discourse
Historical Research I, II, and III
Historical Theory and Tendencies
History Teaching Methodology
Information Technology Applied to History
Introduction to History
Medieval History
Modern History
Pre-History and Ancient History
Seminar on Central American History
Seminar on Latin American Problems
Seminar on National Reality
Social and Economic Theory
Theory and History of International Relations
Theory and History of Social Movements

Law

International Private Law
International Public Law

Philosophy

Introduction to Philosophy
Latin American Philosophy I and II

Psychology

General Psychology
Psychological Research
Social Psychology

Sociology

Development Sociology
Introduction to Sociology
Political Sociology

Sustainable Tourism

Administration of Tourism Projects
Ecotourism
Introduction to Tourism
Marketing of Tourism
National Culture
Psychology of Tourism
Sustainability
Tourism Policies and Planning
Tourism Resources and Services

a student's story

The true beauty of a struggle isn't the final result; rather it is the process that takes place to accomplish that which you have set out to complete. As I reflect on my semester in Nicaragua, the importance of understanding the process of growth has been continuously manifested through different avenues. While the process proved painful at times, I have been fortunate enough to recognize the beauty that is Nicaragua, while creating memories that are sure to last a lifetime. Never shall I forget the feeling of being a *gringa* in my classes at UNAN, but never will I forget the openness that my classmates and professors embraced me with combined with their admiration and fascination of a culture unlike their own. Never shall I forget waking up to *bachata* or *merengue* music, while being greeted by the smell of *gallo pinto* and the smile of my *doña*. Never shall I forget watching the buses packed with people pass me by, nor the obvious passion for music that was omnipresent during my semester in Managua. And most of all, never shall I forget the feeling of accomplishment that I experienced when I could finally understand my host family and neighbors, or whenever I learned something new. While studying in Managua is sure to challenge you, I encourage you to embrace and to relish all of the unexpected experiences and journeys that you have, because you never know the friendships and relationships that will develop as a result.

— Daphne Martin, Denison University